(b) how many cases are now lying on the file of the Cochin Magistrate, Mattancheri, and who was looking after the duty of trying these cases during the above period ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—(a) (i) Yes.

(ii) From the afternoon of 13th Mithunam 1109 to the afternoon of 3rd Karkadagam 1109. The reason was that the Sub-Magistrate of Cochin was asked to take charge as District Munsiff of Vadakkancheri, urgently before orders appointing a substitute at Cochin could be issued.

(b) There were 104 Second Class cases and 17 First Class cases on the file of the Cochin Magistrate. The Kanayannur Magistrate was in charge of the Court in Mattancheri as well.

Purchase of horses.

341. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to state with reference to the answers to Question No. 214, dated 21st February 1934 and also answers to supplementary questions:—

(a) whether the enquiry is over; and if so,

(b) whether a copy of the enquiry report will be printed and placed on the table ;

(c) what action has been taken by the Government on the report;

(d) the price of each geld and mare paid in Bombay ?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—(a) (b) and (c). The matter is still under enquiry.

(d) Rs. 550 each.

Confirmation in the Traffic Department.

342. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether the Traffic Department was not confirmed recently;

(b) whether there is any Traffic Inspector or Superintendent in the confirmed Traffic Department ;

(c) whether the present head of the Traffic Department has any experience in the said department;

(d) if the answer to (c) is in the negative, what were the reasons to prefer one without experience to the one with experience ?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—(a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) Yes.

(d) No answer is necessary in view of reply to (c).

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—The present head of the Traffic Department, it is said, has some experience in the

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department. May I know what that experience is and when was it gained ?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—The Motor Regulation came into force in 1094 and the Division Police or the Station Police were taking full part in the working of the Regulation till the new separate Traffic Department was created. That was only 4 years ago, and even now the Division Police are not free from the responsibility of controlling traffic and they are also taking part in preventing motor offences. Ever since the Regulation came into force, the Police had taken part and this particular gentleman has been asked to work for some time in the Traffic section of the Office of the Police Commissioner in Madras, and had a course of training.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—What is the experience of the Government in the working of the Traffic Department for these two months without a head?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—There is a head. The C. I. D. Inspector is put in charge of the traffic section. It is too early now to say anything one way or the other because he is put in charge only a few months ago. In fact it is an experimental measure and if it is satisfactory it might continue. Otherwise a new appointment will have to be made.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—What is the work of the C. I. D. Officer who is also the head of the Traffic Department now in the traffic line ?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—He is doing exactly the same work as the previous man. He is in charge of the Traffic section in the Head Office. Occasionally he goes out, checks traffic and if there is any dispute and if there is any new timings to be prepared he goes to the spot, consults the bus-owners and makes the necessary proposals.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Has not this officer got sufficient work in his capacity as C. I. D. Officer?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—I do not think he has got heavy work because it is rather in its infant stage and in a small State like Cochin I don't think that the Inspector will have sufficient work.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Had the Inspector who was the head of the Traffic Department when it was a temporary department sufficient work as a full time officer?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—Yes. He had.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—How has that work been now reduced into such a position as to be handled by a C. I. D. Officer who has got other work to turn out?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—As I said before the C.I.D. Officer is not fully engaged. As a sort of experiment we wanted

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to see if this work also can be done by the C. I. D. Inssector.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—I don't quite follow. The work of the Traffic Superintendent who was, till confirmation, a full time officer is now given to the C. I. D. Officer who, though his hands are not full with that work, still has got some work to do. So how is this managed?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—As a measure of retrenchment we are trying this experiment and we hope that he will be able to cope with the work. If on experience it is found that he will not be able to cope with the work, the question of reviving the old arrangement will be considered.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Was there any request from the C. I. D. officer to give him any extra remuneration?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—There is no such request from anybody. It was all done by the Government on its own initiative.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—While he was the C. I. D. officer was there any request from him for increase of his pay?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—No such thing.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Is he paid any amount now for the extra work that he does in the Traffic line?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—He is paid Rs. 25 allowance. That amount he would get even otherwise. At present if he is working in the field section he is entitled to get that amount. So we did not want him to lose that amount by taking up this work. He was a senior Inspector and he was doing efficient work.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Was it on that account that he was paid Rs. 25?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—Probably all these considerations might have come in.

Strike in Sitaram Spinning and Weaving Mills.

343. **Mr. Paul Mampilli.**—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether there was a strike of workmen in the Sitaram Spinning and Weaving Mills, Ltd., Trichur;

(b) how long did the strike last;

(c) what were the causes of the strike;

(d) what steps, if any, were taken by the Government to settle differences between the employer and the employees in the Mills;

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